(c) Each and every case of shortage is investigated and wherever the losses are found to have occurred on account of misappropriation, manipulation, pilferage, negligence etc., disciplinary action is initiated under the Staff Regulations/Vigilance procedures to fix responsibility and for recovery. The number of cases investigated and penalities imposed during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Cases investigated	Official/Officer punished
2001	529	1367 (including 44 Cat. I Officers)
2002	760	2425 (including 65 cat. I Ofifcers)
2003	713	2091 (including 33 Cat. I Officers)

(d) Apart from regular audit and vigilance checkings efforts are continuously made by FCI to minimize losses and bring down operational costs.

The steps being taken to reduce foodgrain losses include use of better quality gunnies, inspection and calibration of weighbridges, encouraging double line stitching of bags, improved documentation, introduction of computerized management information system of foodgrains, regular and surprise inspection of depots and deployment of CISF at vulnerable depots.

Export by FCI

1072. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India has been exporting foodgrains at the rates below the BPL rate, as a result of this subsidy provided by Government is being passed to the foreign importers;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review this policy;

(c) the quantum, rate and value of foodgrains of various categories exported during the last three years and during 2002-2004; and

(d) the extent of loss suffered by Government each year due to low export prices, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) FCI releases foodgrains for export from Central Pool stocks at effective export prices which are well above the Below Poverty Line (BPL) prices.

(c) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) Kolkata, the quantum, rate and value of rice and wheat exported from the Central Pool during 2000-2001 to 2003-2004 are given in the statement (*See* below).

(d) There has been no loss on account of export of foodgrains. However, certain WTO compatible expenses are reimbursed to the exporters, which are fixed from time to time.

Statement

Quantum and Value of Foodgrains Exported

Wheat

Year	Quantity (lakh MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
2000-2001	8.13	415
2001-2002	26.49	1330
2002-2003	36.71	1760
2003-04 (Provisional)	40.23	2349

Non-Basmati Rice

Year	Quantity (lakh MT)	Value (Rs.crores)
2000-2001	6.83	777
2001-2002	15.41	1331
2002-2003	40.76	3634
2003-2004 (Provisional)	26.01	2142

Rates (Effective Price) of Foodgrains exported

Effective Export Price in Rs. per MT of Wheat, Par-Boiled Rice and Raw Rice pertaining to Fresh Crop Prevailing during the last quarter of Financial years 2002-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004

Financial year	Wheat	Par-Boiled Rice	Raw Rice
2000-2001	4150	6750	6750
2001-2002	4250	6000	5650
2002-2003	4950	6865	6510
2003-2004	6525	7800	7600

Issue price for BPL beneficiaries

BPL prices in Rs. per MT of Wheat and Rice during Financial years 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004

Financial Year	Wheat	Rice
2000-2001	4150	5650
2001-2002	4150	5650
2002-2003	4150	5650
2003-2004	4150	5650

International consultancy services for FCI

1073. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a consultancy firm of international level to look into the working of Food Corporation of India and suggest measures for its improvement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount to be paid to this international company for their work; and

(d) by when, the company is likely to submit its report?